

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A clamping element (10, 21) for fixing an article of clothing, especially a pair of pants, to a transverse support (27), which connects the ends of a clothes hanger (20) and has a middle reinforced region (15, 26) and two outer leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29), characterized in that it is made entirely of plastic, and the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) have a thickness that varies over their length to adapt it to a magnitude of stresses acting on the clamping element so as to provide a least possible elongation of the leaf spring elements and therefore prevent relaxation or creep of the leaf spring elements.

Claim 2 cancelled.

3. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) protrude into the reinforced middle region (15, 26).

4. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) have a curvature, so that at the connecting points (16, 17, 22, 23) to the clothes

hanger (20) they have an angle of inclination of preferably 1°-35° relative to the horizontal.

5. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that on both ends it has a respective joint element (16, 17, 22, 23) for articulated connection to the clothes hanger (20).

6. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made from plastic, preferably POM, polycarbonate, or impact resistance modified polystyrene.

7. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made of a glass fiber reinforced plastic, such as POM-GF.

8. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made of an amorphous plastic.

9. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made in a single operation.

10. (Original) The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the reinforced middle region (15, 26) and the leaf spring elements (11, 12) are embodied as a one- piece injection-molded part.